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(54) **EXTENDABLE ELECTRICAL BOX**

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H02G 3/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **220/3.7; 220/4.03; 220/8**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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248/62, 70, 315, 230.1; 174/380, 58, 69,
174/161 R, 50; 361/679.05, 679.32

See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Luan K Bui

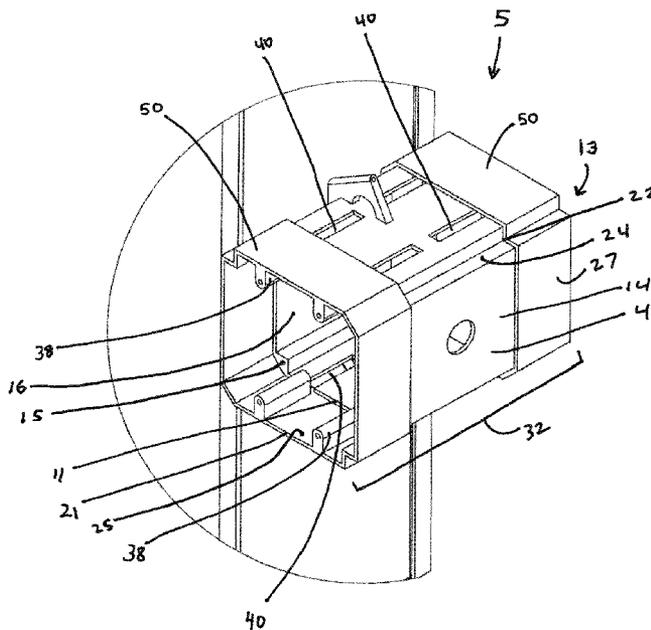
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An extendable electrical box comprises an electrical box having two open ends to an internal box space having a first depth. The electrical box comprises a mounting structure attached to at least one wall of the electrical box. The mounting structure is configured to mount the electrical box to a vertical wall structure such that the open end faces substantially parallel to the vertical wall structure. At least two extendable first rings each continuously surround one of the two open ends of the electrical box. The at least two extendable first rings are each slidably coupled with the electrical box via the sliding mechanical cooperation of one or more guides with one or more tracks, such that sliding either of the at least two extendable first rings in relation to the open ends of the electrical box expands the electrical box from the first depth to a larger second depth.

18 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



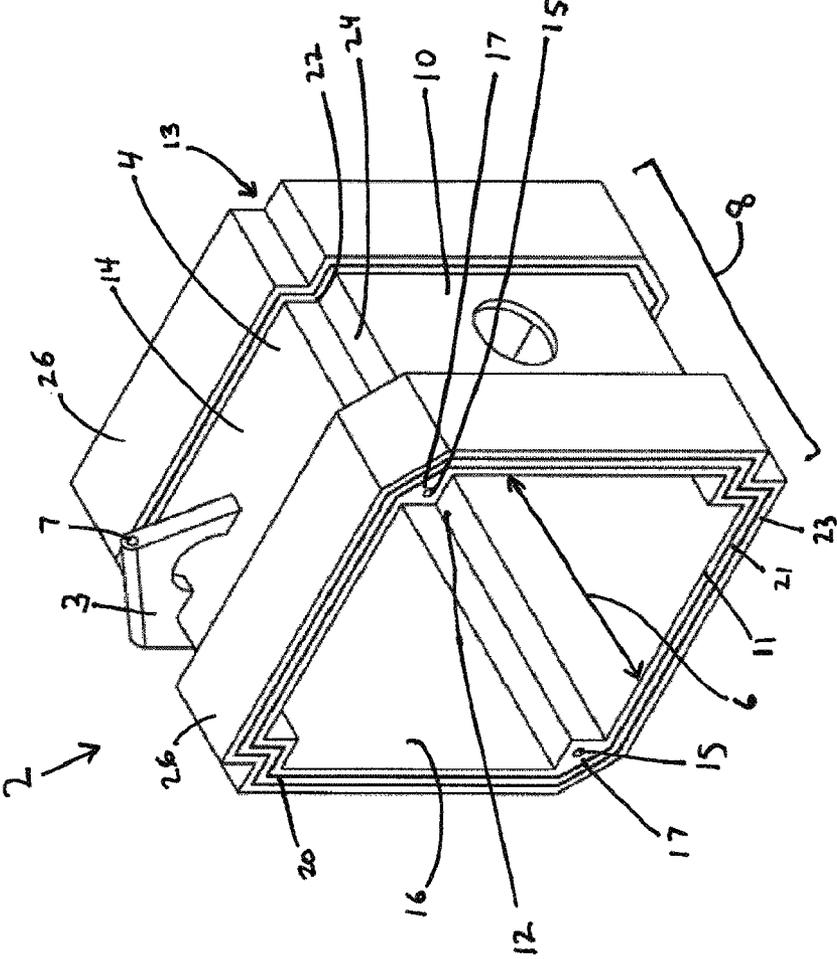


FIG. 1

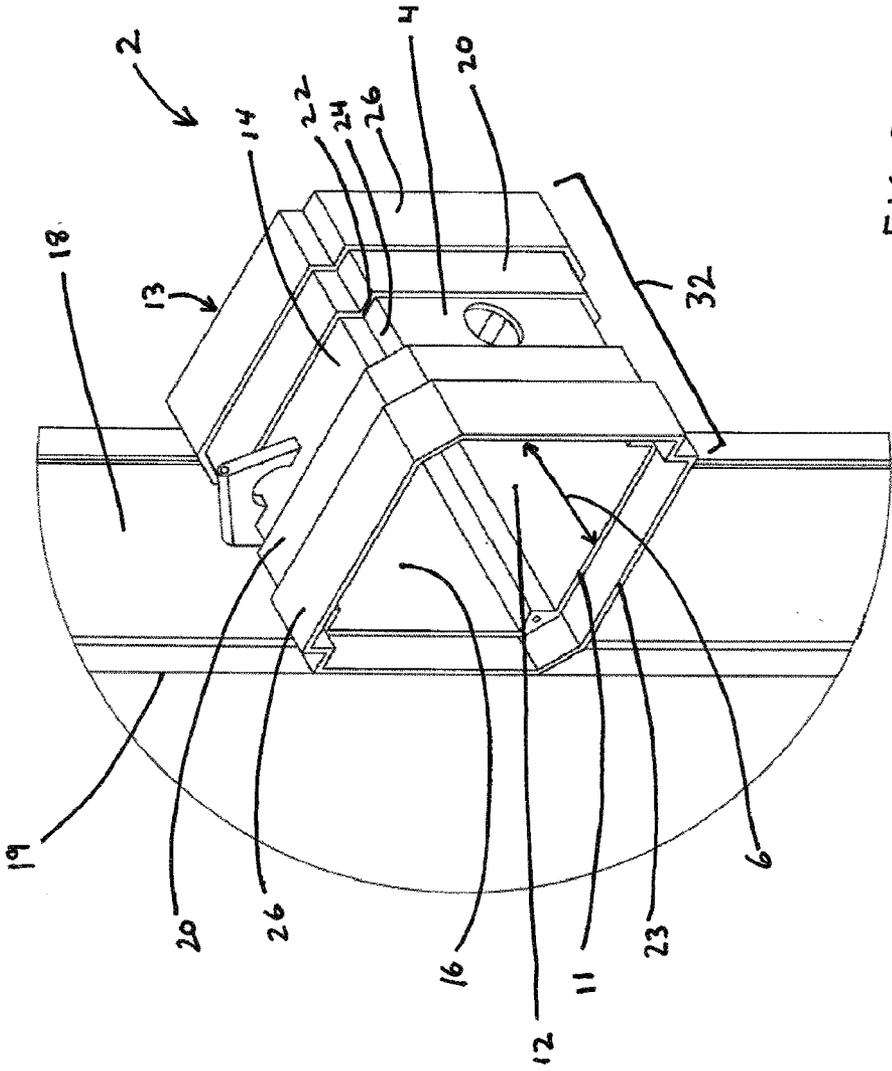
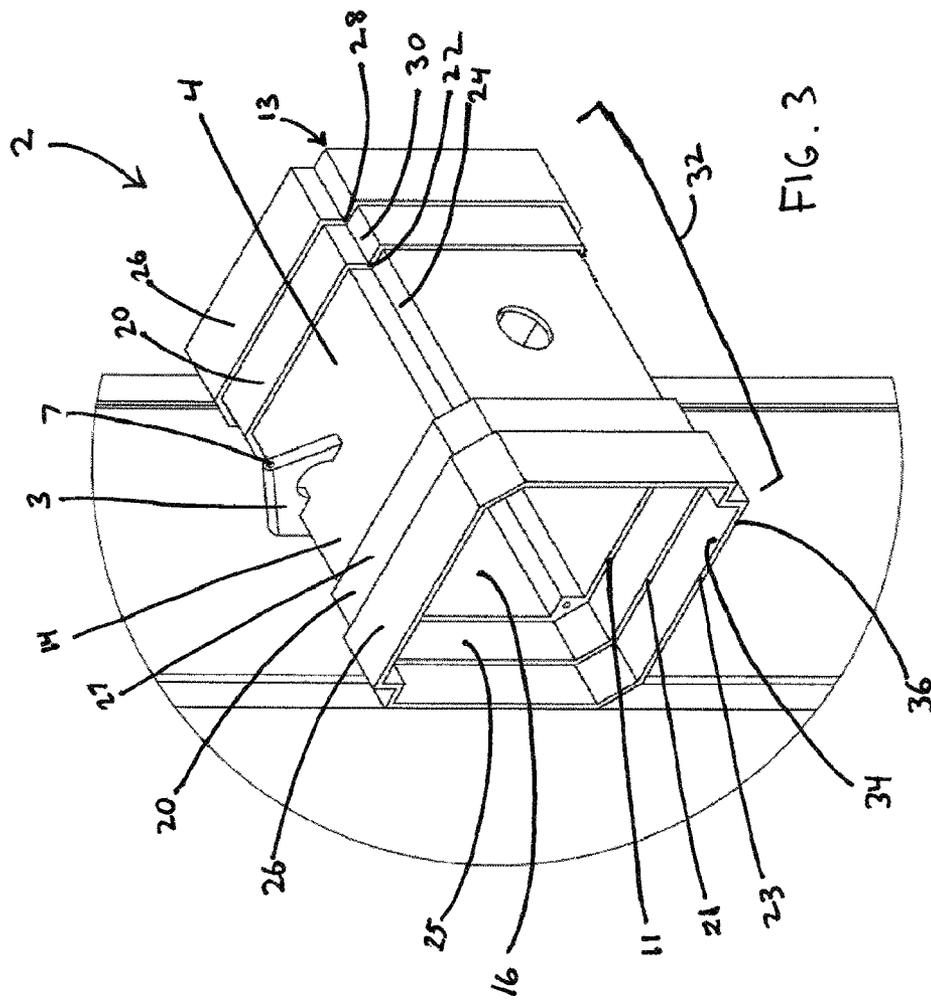


FIG. 2



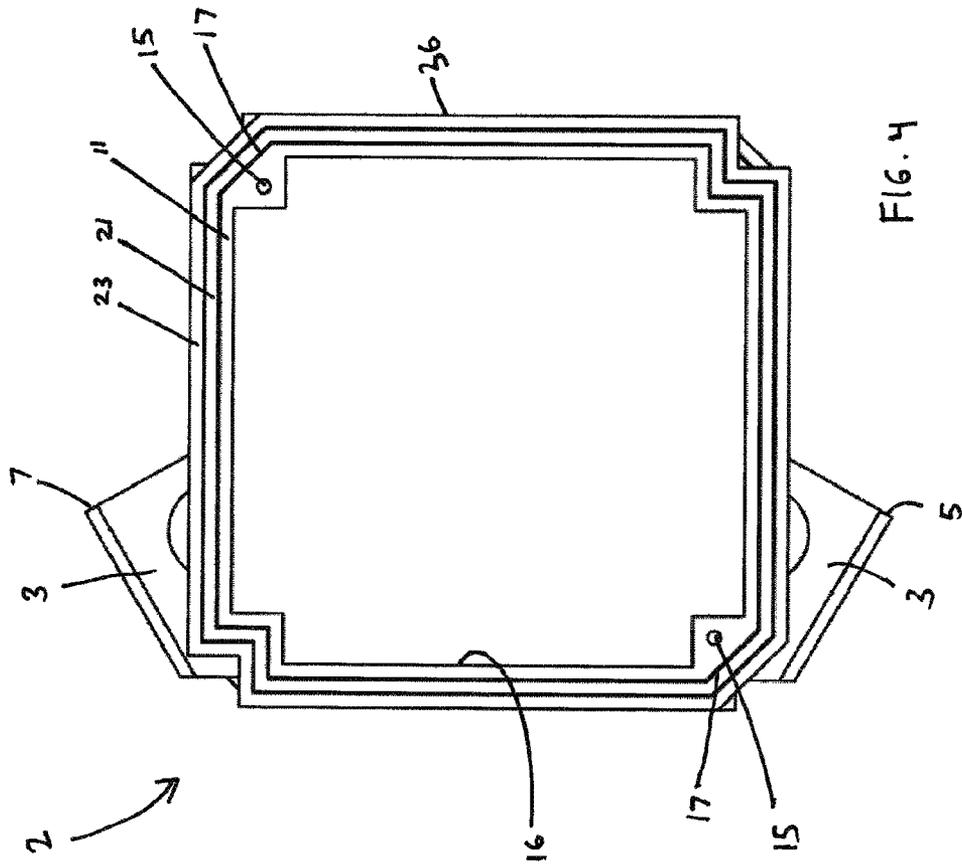


FIG. 4

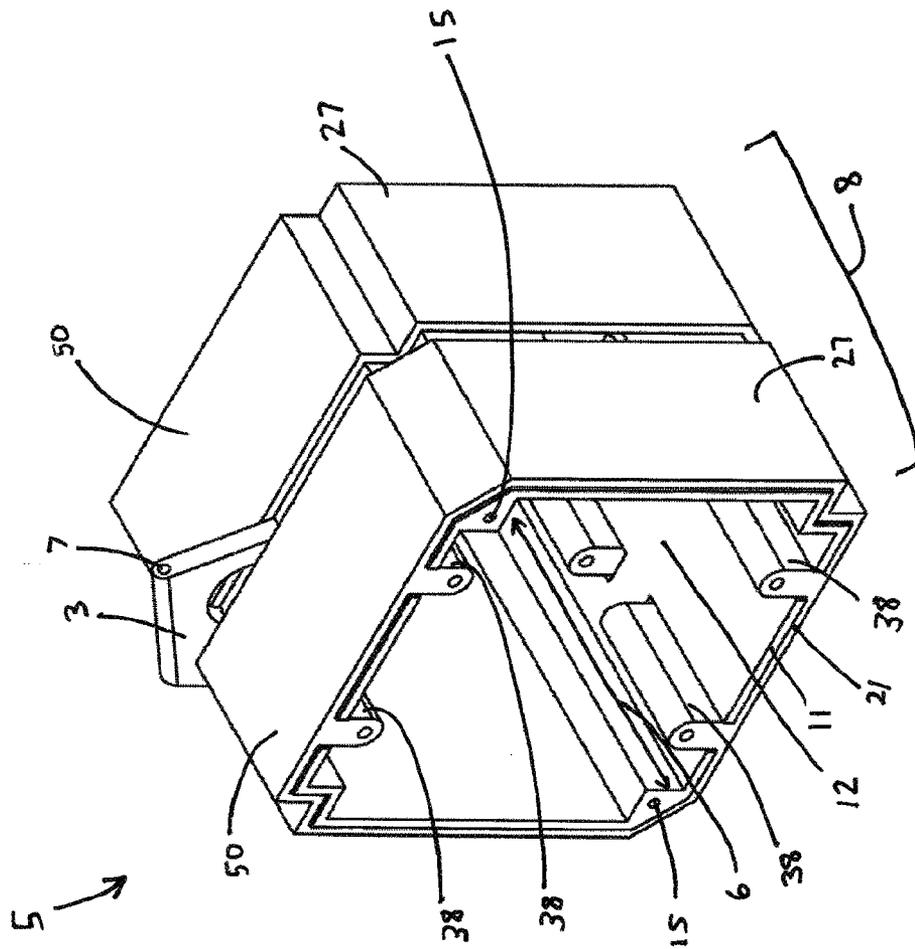


FIG. 5

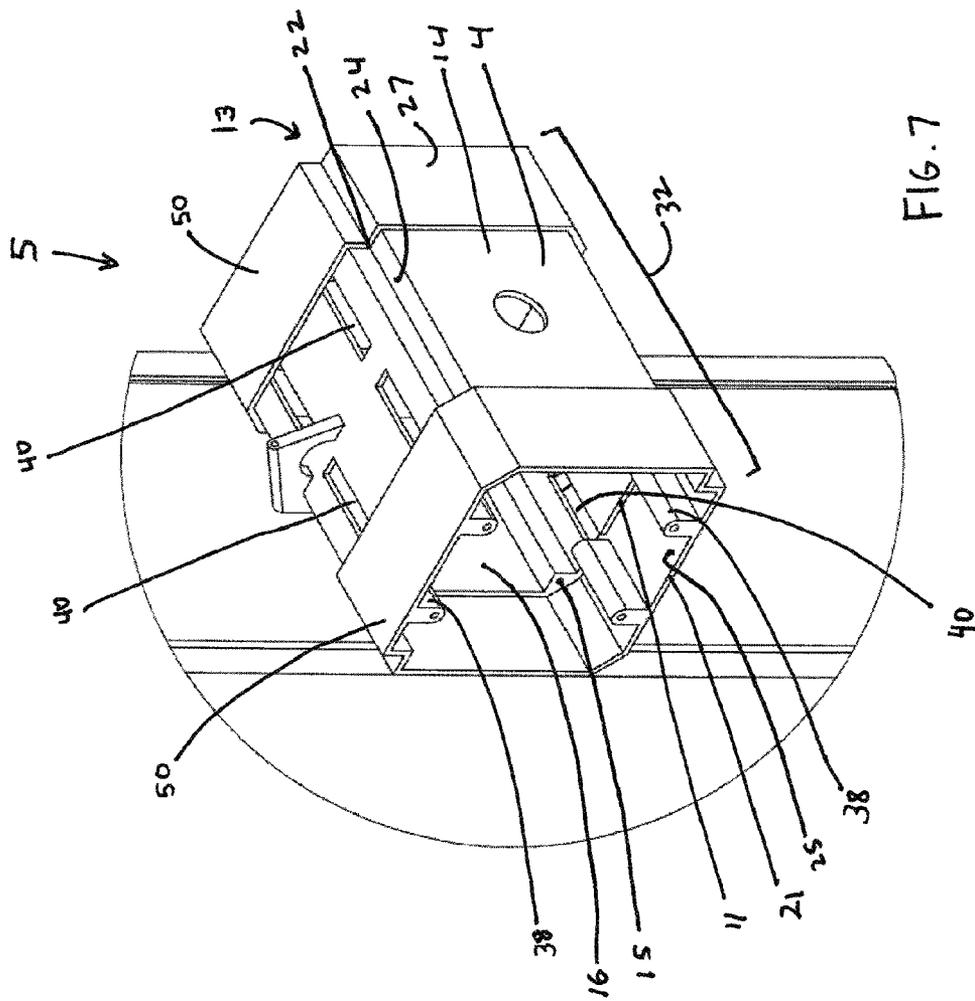
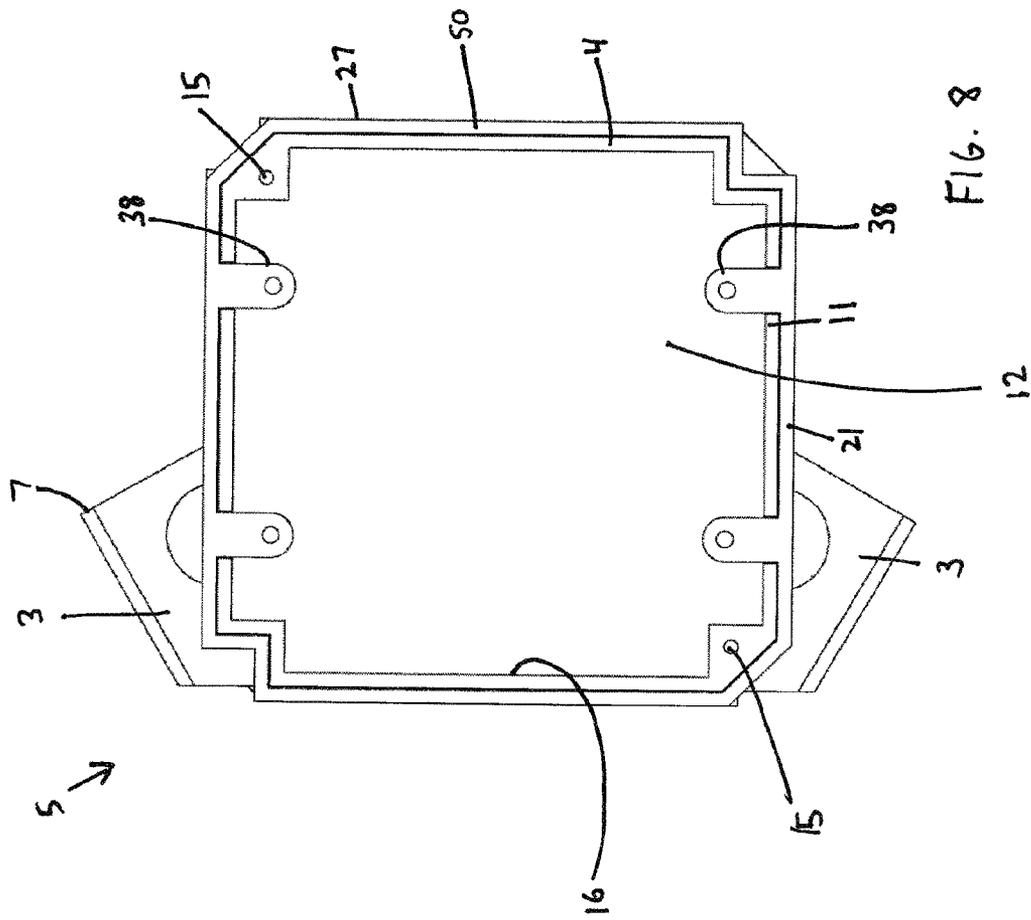


FIG. 7



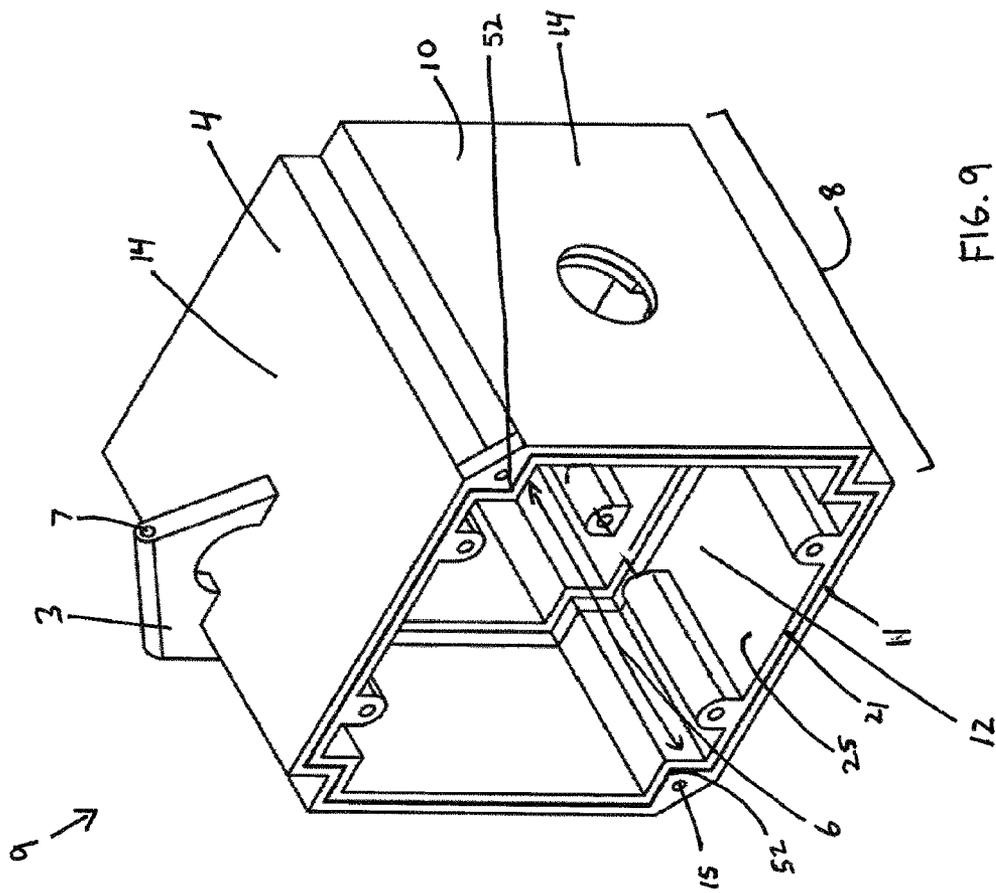


FIG. 9

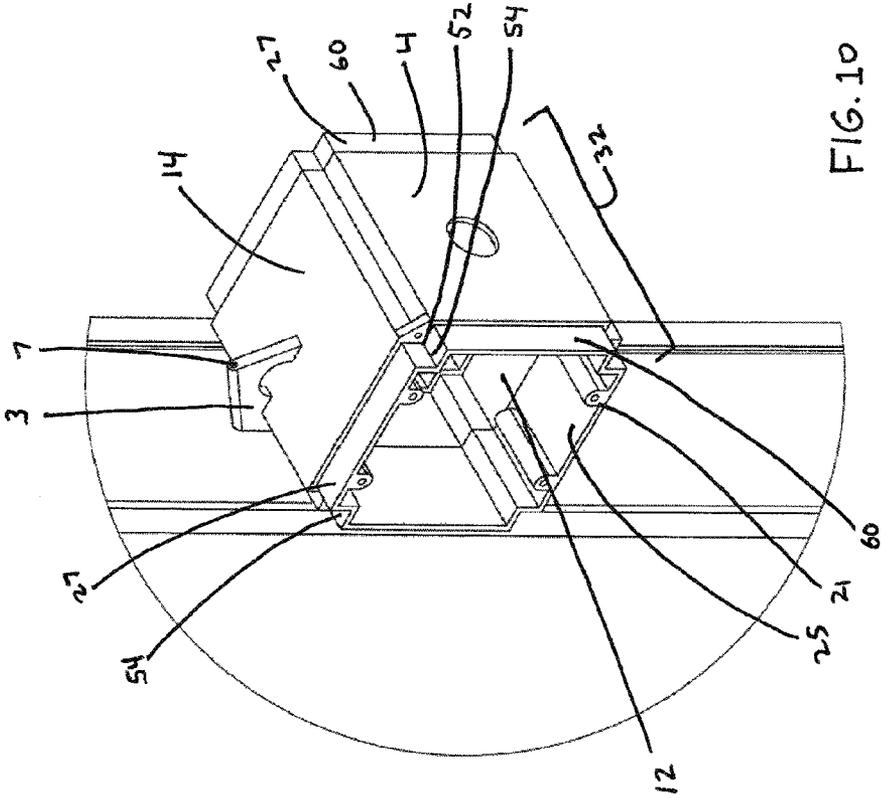


FIG. 10

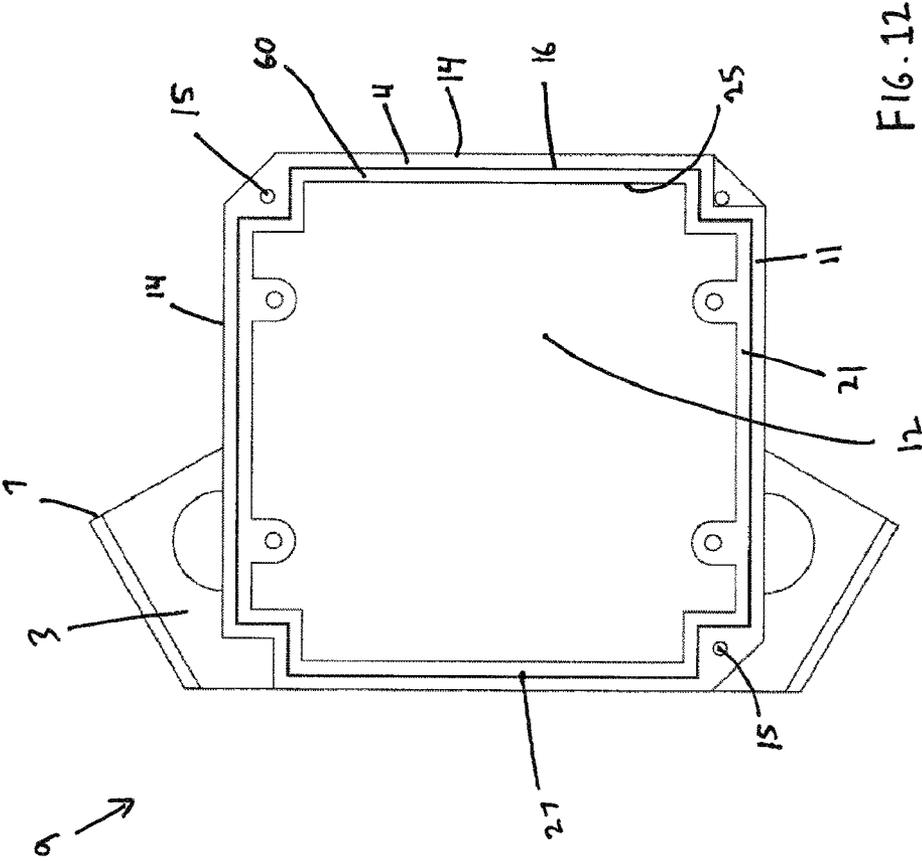


FIG. 12

EXTENDABLE ELECTRICAL BOX**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This document claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application 61/096,615 to Shotey, et al. entitled "Extendable Electrical Box," which was filed on Sep. 12, 2008, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND**1. Technical Field**

Aspects of the present documents relate generally to extendable electrical boxes.

2. Background Art

Electrical boxes are conventionally used to mount and house one or more electrical devices within a wall or other structure. High voltage electrical boxes are typically required to be enclosed on all sides. During installation of electrical boxes in walls or other structures, users may find that a gap exists between the electrical box and the front surface of the wall or other structure. Various attempts have been made to address the gap that may exist between a front edge of an electrical box and a front surface of a wall or other structure.

SUMMARY

Aspects of this document relate to extendable electrical boxes.

In one aspect, an extendable electrical box comprises an electrical box having two open ends to an internal box space having a first depth. The electrical box comprises a mounting structure attached to at least one side wall of the electrical box, and the mounting structure is configured to mount the electrical box to a vertical wall structure, such that the open end faces substantially parallel to the vertical wall structure. At least two extendable first rings each continuously surround one of the two open ends of the electrical box, and the at least two extendable first rings are each slidably coupled with the electrical box via the sliding mechanical cooperation of one or more guides with one or more tracks such that sliding either of the at least two extendable first rings in relation to the open ends of the electrical box expands the electrical box from the first depth to a larger second depth.

Particular implementations may include one or more of the following. The at least two extendable first rings may each be located on an outside surface of the electrical box. The at least two extendable rings may each comprise a first ring and a second ring, wherein each second ring extends in relation to and beyond a corresponding first ring. The at least two extendable first rings may be slidably located on an inside surface of the electrical box. The at least two extendable first rings may be slidably located on an outside surface of the electrical box. The electrical box may comprise at least two electrical device mounting screw holes each located on opposing corners of the electrical box. The one or more tracks may be located on an outer surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides may be located on an inner surface of the one or more extendable first rings. The one or more tracks may be located on an inner surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides are located on an outer surface of the one or more extendable first rings. The one or more tracks may pass through an outer surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides may be located on one of an inner surface and an outer surface of the one or more extendable first rings.

In another aspect, an extendable electrical box comprises an electrical box having a continuous front edge surrounding at least one open end to an internal box space having a first depth. The electrical box comprises a mounting structure attached to at least one side wall of the electrical box, the mounting structure configured to mount the electrical box to a vertical wall structure such that the open end faces substantially parallel to the vertical wall structure. One or more extendable first rings continuously surround the open end of the electrical box, the one or more extendable first rings slidably coupled with the electrical box via the sliding mechanical cooperation of one or more guides with one or more tracks such that sliding the one or more extendable first rings in relation to an open end of the electrical box expands the electrical box from the first depth to a larger second depth, wherein when the one or more extendable first rings are in a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box, a front edge of the one or more first extendable rings is substantially flush with the continuous front edge of the electrical box.

Particular implementations may include one or more of the following. The electrical box may comprise an open front end and an open back end, and wherein the one or more extendable first rings continuously surround each of the open front end and the open back end of the electrical box. The one or more extendable first rings may be located on an outside surface of the electrical box. One or more extendable second rings may each be located on an outside surface of one of the one or more extendable first rings. The one or more extendable first rings may be slidably located on an inside surface of the electrical box. The electrical box may comprise at least two electrical device mounting screw holes each located on an opposing corner of the electrical box. The one or more tracks may be located on an inner surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides may be located on an outer surface of the one or more extendable first rings. The one or more tracks may pass through an outer surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides are located on one of an inner surface and an outer surface of the one or more extendable first rings.

In still another aspect, a method of mounting an electrical box comprises mounting an electrical box to a vertical wall surface having a wall depth; and extending a depth of the electrical box by sliding an extendable ring continuously surrounding an open end of the electrical box from a first position, where a front edge of the extendable ring is substantially flush with a front edge of the open end of the electrical box, to a second position where the front edge of the extendable ring is substantially flush with a front surface of the vertical wall structure.

Particular implementations may include one or more of the following. Sliding the extendable ring may be performed without the use of tools.

The foregoing and other aspects, features, and advantages will be apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art from the DESCRIPTION and DRAWINGS, and from the CLAIMS.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A gangable electrical unit will hereinafter be described in conjunction with the appended drawings, where like designations denote like elements, and:

FIG. 1 is a collapsed perspective view of a first particular implementation of an extendable electrical box;

FIG. 2 is a partially extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a fully extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 1;

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FIG. 4 is a collapsed front view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a collapsed perspective view of a second particular implementation of an extendable electrical box;

FIG. 6 is a partially extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a fully extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 5;

FIG. 8 is a collapsed front view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 5;

FIG. 9 is a collapsed perspective view of a third particular implementation of an extendable electrical box;

FIG. 10 is a partially extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a fully extended perspective view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 9; and

FIG. 12 is a collapsed front view of the extendable electrical box illustrated in FIG. 9.

DESCRIPTION

This disclosure, its aspects and implementations, are not limited to the specific components or assembly procedures disclosed herein. Many additional components and assembly procedures known in the art consistent with the intended operation of an extendable electrical box and/or assembly procedures for an extendable electrical box will become apparent from this disclosure. Accordingly, for example, although particular electrical boxes, side walls, internal spaces, depths, inner surfaces, outer surfaces, front edges, guides, tracks, grooves, extendable rings, extendable first rings, extendable second rings, open ends, mounting structures, and screw apertures are disclosed, such electrical boxes, guides, tracks, grooves, extendable rings, first rings, second rings, mounting structures, screw apertures and implementing components may comprise any shape, size, style, type, model, version, measurement, concentration, material, quantity, and/or the like as is known in the art for such extendable electrical boxes, consistent with the intended operation of an extendable electrical box.

There are a variety of extendable electrical box implementations disclosed herein and made possible from the present disclosure. FIGS. 1-4 illustrate a first particular implementation of an extendable electrical box 2, wherein the extendable electrical box 2 is shown in conjunction with a vertical wall structure 18 in FIGS. 2-3, and alone in FIGS. 1 and 4. FIGS. 5-9 illustrate a second particular implementation of an extendable electrical box 5, wherein the extendable electrical box 5 is shown in conjunction with a vertical wall structure 18 in FIGS. 6-7, and alone in FIGS. 5 and 8. FIGS. 9-12 illustrate a third particular implementation of an extendable electrical box 9, wherein the extendable electrical box 9 is shown in conjunction with a vertical wall structure 18 in FIGS. 10-11, and alone in FIGS. 9 and 12.

FIGS. 1-12 illustrate various particular implementations of extendable electrical boxes. All of the particular implementations of extendable electrical boxes described herein are used to reconfigure an electrical box 4 comprising an internal space 6 having a first depth 8 (FIGS. 1, 5 and 9, respectively) to an electrical box 4 comprising an internal space 6 having a second depth 32 (FIGS. 2-3, 6-7, and 10-11, respectively). In particular, a comparison of FIG. 1 to FIG. 3 (and/or FIGS. 5 to 7 and/or FIGS. 9 to 11) illustrates that the second depth 32 is larger than the first depth 8.

An electrical box 4 (which is common to all particular implementations of extendable electrical boxes described herein) comprises at least one side wall 10 and a front edge 11.

4

In some particular implementations, the electrical box 4 comprises four side walls 10 which are located at the top and bottom of the electrical box 4 in addition to the sides. The electrical box 4 further comprises an open end 12 which, in the particular implementation shown, is defined by the four side walls 10. The open end 12 comprises at least two cover plate mounting screw holes 15 located on opposing angles 17 of the electrical box 4. Significantly, in some particular implementations, the electrical box 4 may comprise two open ends such as, by way of non-limiting example, a front open end 12 and a rear open end 13. In any event, the electrical box 4 further comprises a mounting structure 3 attached to at least one side wall 10. In some particular implementations, the mounting structure 3 may comprise an angled nail hole 7 therethrough. The mounting structure 3 is used to mount the electrical box 4 to a vertical wall structure 18 (FIGS. 2-3, FIGS. 6-7, and FIGS. 10-11, respectively), such that an open end 12 faces substantially parallel to the vertical wall structure 18.

Still referring to FIGS. 1-12, all of the various implementations of extendable electrical boxes described herein further comprise one or more extendable first rings 20 that continuously surround an open end 12 of the electrical box 4. The one or more extendable first rings 20 may continuously surround the open end 12 of the electrical box 4 from either the outer surface 14 (such as, by way of non-limiting example, the particular implementations shown with respect to FIGS. 1-4 and FIGS. 5-8, respectively) or the inner surface 16 of the electrical box 4 (such as, by way of non-limiting example, the particular implementation illustrated with respect to FIGS. 9-12, described further below). In any event, the one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60 are slidably coupled with the electrical box 4 via the sliding mechanical cooperation of one or more guides 22, 52 with one or more tracks 24, 54, which are described further below.

The one or more guides 22, 52 may comprise any projection, protrusion, bump, raised portion, angle, and/or the like and may be formed integrally or may be formed separately and thereafter coupled to the electrical box 4 and/or one or more extendable first rings 20. In the particular implementation shown with respect to FIGS. 1-4, the one or more guides 22 are integrally formed by an angle extending from the inner surface 25 of the one or more extendable first rings 20. Notwithstanding, the one or more guides 22 may be located on the one or more extendable first rings 20 and/or the electrical box 4 and may be formed in a variety of ways such as, by way of non-limiting example, an angle extending from the inner surface 16 of the electrical box 4 into the internal space 6 (such as, by way of non-limiting example, the particular implementation shown with respect to FIGS. 9-12, described further below).

In some particular implementations, the one or more guides 22, 52 may be integrally formed with or otherwise located on the outer surface 14 of the electrical box 4. In other particular implementations, the one or more guides 22, 52 may be integrally formed with the inner surface 16 of the electrical box 4 (such as, by way of non-limiting example, the particular implementation illustrated with respect to FIGS. 9-12). In still other particular implementations, the one or more guides 22, 52 may be integrally formed with or otherwise located on an outer surface 27 of the one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60. In yet other particular implementations, the one or more guides 22, 52 may be integrally formed with an inner surface 25 of the one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60 (such as, by way of non-limiting example, those particular implementations illustrated with respect to FIGS. 1-4 and FIGS. 5-8, respectively).

The one or more tracks **24, 54** may comprise any groove, channel, furrow, path and/or the like and may be formed integrally or may be formed separately and thereafter coupled to the electrical box **4** and/or one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60**. In some particular implementations, the one or more tracks **24, 54** may be integrally formed on the outer surface **14** of the electrical box **4** (such as, by way of non-limiting example, those particular implementations illustrated with respect to FIGS. **1-4** and FIGS. **5-8**, respectively). In other particular implementations, the one or more tracks **24, 54** may be integrally formed or otherwise located on the inner surface **16** of the electrical box **4**. In still other particular implementations, the one or more tracks **24, 54** may be integrally formed on an outer surface **27** of the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** (such as, by way of non-limiting example, the particular implementation illustrated with respect to FIGS. **9-12**). In yet other particular implementations, the one or more tracks **24, 54** may be integrally formed or otherwise located on an inner surface **25** of the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60**.

Still referring to FIGS. **1-12**, in some particular implementations of extendable electrical box disclosed herein, the extendable electrical box may comprise one or more extendable second rings **26**. In those particular implementations having one or more extendable second rings **26**, the one or more extendable second rings **26** may be located on the outer surface **27** of an associated first ring **20**. The one or more extendable second rings **26** comprise an inner surface **34** and an outer surface **36**. In the particular implementations shown in FIGS. **1-4** and FIGS. **5-9**, respectively, the inner surface **34** of the one or more extendable second rings **26** is adjacent to the outer surface **27** of its associated first ring **20**. Notwithstanding, in other particular implementations, the outer surface **36** of the one or more extendable second rings **26** may be adjacent to the inner surface **25** of the one or more extendable first rings **20**.

With respect to any of the particular implementations of extendable electrical box described herein, the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** may be integrally formed with the electrical box **4** such that the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** do not decouple from the electrical box **4** during normal operation such as, by way of non-limiting example, when expanding and collapsing the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** with respect to the electrical box **4**. Where the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** are integrally formed with the electrical box **4**, the one or more extendable first rings may be integrally formed with the outer surface **14** and/or the inner surface **16** of the electrical box **4**.

The one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** are slidably positionable with respect to the electrical box **4** such that sliding the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** with respect to an open end **12** (the front open end **12** and/or the rear open end **13**) expands the extendable electrical box from a first depth **8** (FIGS. **1** and **4**, FIGS. **5** and **8**; and FIGS. **9** and **12**, respectively) to a larger second depth **32** (FIGS. **2-3**, FIGS. **6-7**, and FIGS. **10-11**, respectively). It will be appreciated from a comparison of FIG. **2** to FIG. **3** (and/or a comparison of FIG. **6** to FIG. **7** and/or a comparison of FIG. **10** to FIG. **11**) that the larger second depth **32** may comprise a variety of depths, all of which is larger than the first depth **8**. In those particular implementations of electrical box **4** having an open front end **12** and an open rear end **13**, the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** may continuously surround each of the open front end **12** and the open rear end **13**. It will be understood that an electrical device (not shown) will typically be installed in an open end **12** of the electrical box **4** via

one or more electrical device mounting apertures **42** (which may be integrally formed with or located on one or more extendable first rings **20** and/or one or more extendable second rings **26** such as, by way of non-limiting example, in the particular implementation shown with respect to FIGS. **5-8**). In addition, a cover plate (not shown) is typically installed over an electrical device and coupled to an electrical box **4** (such as, by way of non-limiting example, one or more cover plate mounting screw holes **15**).

In those particular implementations of extendable electrical box having both an open front end **12** and an open rear end **13**, an electrical device may be installed in each of the front open end **12** and the rear open end **13**. Notwithstanding, in those instances where one of a front open end **12** and a rear open end **13** are unused (i.e. no electrical device is installed therein), the unused front open end **12** and/or the unused rear open end **13** may be covered by fastening a cover plate over the open end of the electrical box **4** via the one or more cover plate mounting holes **15**.

Referring still to FIGS. **1-12**, the electrical box **4** comprises a box front edge **11**. In addition, the one or more extendable first rings **20, 50, 60** each comprise a first ring front edge **21**. When the one or more extendable first rings **20** is in a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box **4** (FIGS. **1** and **4**; **5** and **8**; and **9** and **12**, respectively), the first ring front edge **21** is substantially flush with the box front edge **11** of the electrical box **4**. Alternatively, when the one or more extendable first rings **20** is in an expanded position with respect to the electrical box **4** (FIGS. **2-3**, **6-7**, and **10-11**, respectively), the first ring front edge **21** may be substantially flush with a front surface **19** of the vertical wall structure **18**. In those particular implementations where one or more extendable second rings **26** are provided, each of the one or more extendable second rings **26** may comprise a second ring front edge **23**. When the one or more extendable second rings **26** is in a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box **4** and its associated extendable first ring **20** (FIGS. **1** and **4**; and **5** and **8**, respectively), the second ring front edge **23** is substantially flush with both the box front edge **11** of the electrical box **4** and the first ring front edge **21** of the associated extendable first ring **20, 50, 60**. Alternatively, when the one or more extendable second rings **26** is in an expanded position with respect to the electrical box **4** and its associated first ring **20** (FIGS. **2-3**, and FIGS. **6-7**, respectively), the second ring front edge **23** may be substantially flush with a front surface **19** of the vertical wall structure **18**.

In addition, the one or more extendable first rings **20** and the one or more extendable second rings **26** may move independently, both with respect to each other, as well as with respect to the electrical box **4**. Also, it will be understood that where one or more extendable second rings **26** are provided, each of the one or more extendable second rings **26** are slidably coupled with an associated extendable first ring **20** via the sliding mechanical cooperation of one or more guides with one or more tracks. By way of non-limiting example, the one or more extendable second rings **26** may comprise one or more guides **28** (which may be located on or may be integral with the inner surface **34** and/or the outer surface **36** of second ring **26**) that cooperate with one or more tracks **30** (FIG. **3**) on an associated extendable first ring **20** (which may be located on or may be integral with the inner surface **25** and/or the outer surface **27** of the associated first ring **20**). Alternatively, the one or more extendable second rings **26** may comprise one or more tracks **30** (which may be located on or may be integral with the inner surface **34** and/or the outer surface **36** of second ring **26**) that cooperate with one or more guides **28** on an associated extendable first ring **20** (which may be located on

or may be integral with the inner surface 25 and/or the outer surface 27 of the associate first ring 20).

As described above, the one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60 and/or the one or more extendable second rings 26 (where provided) may be maintained in an extended position with respect to the electrical box 4. In particular implementations, such as, by way of non-limiting example, those illustrated with respect to FIGS. 1-4 and 5-8, respectively, the one or more extendable second rings 26 may be maintained in an extended position (FIGS. 2-3, and FIGS. 6-7, respectively) due at least to the fact that the outer surface 36 of the one or more extendable second rings 26 extends above the outer surface 14 of the electrical box 4. Specifically, when the electrical box 4 (FIGS. 1-4 and 5-8) is mounted to a vertical wall structure 18, an outer surface 36 of the one or more extendable second rings 26 is in contact with the vertical wall structure 18. The resulting contact between the vertical wall structure 18 and the outer surface 36 of the one or more extendable second rings 26 accordingly assists in maintaining the one or more extendable second rings 26 in an extended position with respect to the electrical box 4. Significantly, the one or more extendable second rings 26 may be maintained in a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box 4 by friction between a first ring 20, 50, 60, a second ring 26 and/or the electrical box 4 (and/or friction between an outer surface 36 of a second ring 26 and/or an outer surface 27 of a first ring 20). Alternatively, in some particular implementations, a detenting feature (not shown) may be provided in order to assist in maintaining the one or more extendable second rings 26 (and/or the one or more extendable first rings 20) in an extended and/or a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box 4.

It will be understood that, in those particular implementations having one or more extendable second rings 26, the one or more extendable first rings 20 may be maintained in an extended position or a collapsed position due at least to their mechanical cooperation with the one or more extendable second rings 26. It will be further understood that, in those particular implementations without one or more extendable second rings 26, the outer surface 27 of the one or more extendable first rings 20 may be in contact with the vertical wall structure 18, thereby assisting in maintaining the one or more extendable first rings 20 in an extended position with respect to the electrical box 4.

Turning now specifically to FIGS. 5-8, these figures illustrate a second particular implementation of an extendable electrical box 5. The extendable electrical box 5 is shown in conjunction with a vertical wall structure 18 in FIGS. 6-7, and alone in FIGS. 5 and 8. A comparison of FIGS. 5-8 to FIGS. 1-4 illustrates that the extendable electrical box 5 further comprises one or more auxiliary guides 38 and one or more auxiliary tracks 40. In the particular implementation shown, the one or more auxiliary tracks 40 pass through the electrical box 4 from the outer surface 14 to the inner surface 16. The one or more auxiliary guides 38 are integrally formed with (although, in particular implementations, they may be located on) the inner surface 25 of the one or more extendable first rings 50. In any event, the one or more auxiliary guides 38 travel in the one or more auxiliary tracks 40 as the one or more extendable first rings 50 are moved between a collapsed position (FIG. 5) and an expanded position (FIGS. 6-7). In the particular implementation shown, each auxiliary guide 38 comprises an integrally formed electrical device mounting aperture 42. In other particular implementations, one or more electrical device mounting aperture 42 may be integrally

formed with (or located on) a portion of one or more extendable first rings 50 and/or one or more extendable second rings 26.

Referring specifically to FIGS. 9-12, these figures illustrate a third particular implementation of an extendable electrical box 9. The extendable electrical box 9 is shown in conjunction with a vertical wall structure 18 in FIGS. 10-11, and alone in FIGS. 9 and 12. A comparison of FIGS. 9-12 to FIGS. 1-4 illustrates that the one or more extendable first rings 60 may be located in the internal space 6 of the electrical box 4. In this particular implementation, the outer surface 27 of the one or more extendable first rings 60 is in contact with the inner surface 16 of the electrical box 4. In addition, in this particular implementation, the one or more guides 52 are integrally formed with the inner surface 16 of the electrical box, and the one or more tracks 24, 54 are integrally formed with the outer surface 27 of the extendable first ring 20. Notwithstanding, alternatively, the particular location of the one or more guides 22 and the one or more tracks 24, 54 may be changed such that the one or more tracks 24, 54 may be integrally formed with (or located on) the inner surface 16 of the electrical box, and the one or more guides 22 may be integrally formed with (or located on) the outer surface 27 of the extendable first ring 20. In addition, while the particular implementation of extendable electrical box 9 shown and described with respect to FIGS. 9-12 is shown without one or more extendable second rings 26, one or more extendable second rings 26 could be provided, in particular implementations. In such particular implementations, the outer surface 36 of one or more extendable second rings 26 may be adjacent to the inner surface 25 of the one or more extendable first rings 60.

Methods of Use

Referring to FIGS. 1-12, an exemplary method of mounting an extendable electrical box comprises mounting an electrical box 4 to vertical wall structure 18 such that an open end 12 faces substantially parallel to the vertical wall structure 18. In some particular implementations, the electrical box 4 may be mounted to the wall 18 via one or more mounting structures 3 (comprising one or more angled nail holes 7) formed integrally with, or located on, an outer surface 14 of the electrical box 4. Once mounted, an undesirable gap may exist between the front edge 11 of the electrical box 4 and the front surface of the wall structure 18.

Accordingly, the exemplary method further comprises extending a depth 8 of the electrical box 4 by sliding an extendable ring (one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60 and/or one or more extendable second rings 26) from a first position to a second position. The first position specifically comprises where the front edge 21 of the first ring 20, 50, 60 (and/or the front edge 23 of the second ring 26) is substantially flush with the front edge 11 of the electrical box 4 (as shown, by way of non-limiting example, with respect to FIG. 1, FIG. 5, and FIG. 9, respectively). The second position, by contrast, comprises where the front edge 21 of the first ring 20, 50, 60 (and/or the front edge 23 of the second ring 26) is substantially flush with a front surface 19 of the vertical wall structure 18. It will be appreciated, therefore, that by sliding the front edge 21 of the first ring 20, 50, 60 (and/or the front edge 23 of the second ring 26, where provided) into a second position that is substantially flush with a front surface 19 of the vertical wall structure 18, the undesirable gap between the front surface 19 of the wall and the front edge 11 of the electrical box 4 may be eliminated.

Significantly, in some particular implementations, mounting the electrical box 4 may comprise first installing an electrical device in one of one or more extendable first rings 20,

50, 60 and one or more extendable second rings 26. In other particular implementations, one of one or more extendable first rings 20, 50, 60 and one or more extendable second rings 26 may be slid with respect to the electrical box 4 without the requirement of tools.

It will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the concepts of extending a depth of an extendable electrical box, as disclosed herein, is not limited to the specific implementations shown herein. For example, it is specifically contemplated that the components included in a particular implementation of a configurable electrical box may be formed of any of many different types of materials or combinations that can readily be formed into shaped objects and that are consistent with the intended operation of an extendable electrical box. For example, the components may be formed of: rubbers (synthetic and/or natural) and/or other like materials; polymers and/or other like materials; plastics, and/or other like materials; composites and/or other like materials; metals and/or other like materials; alloys and/or other like materials; and/or any combination of the foregoing.

Furthermore, the electrical boxes, side walls, internal spaces, depths, inner surfaces, outer surfaces, front edges, guides, tracks, grooves, extendable rings, extendable first rings, extendable second rings, open ends, mounting structures, screw apertures, and any other components forming a particular implementation of an extendable electrical box may be manufactured separately and then assembled together, or any or all of the components may be manufactured simultaneously and integrally joined with one another. Manufacture of these components separately or simultaneously may involve extrusion, pultrusion, vacuum forming, injection molding, blow molding, resin transfer molding, casting, forging, cold rolling, milling, drilling, reaming, turning, grinding, stamping, cutting, bending, welding, soldering, hardening, riveting, punching, plating, and/or the like. If any of the components are manufactured separately, they may then be coupled or removably coupled with one another in any manner, such as with adhesive, a weld, a fastener, any combination thereof, and/or the like for example, depending on, among other considerations, the particular material(s) forming the components.

It will be understood that particular implementations are not limited to the specific components disclosed herein, as virtually any components consistent with the intended operation of a method and/or system implementation for an extendable electrical box may be utilized. Accordingly, for example, although particular electrical boxes, side walls, internal spaces, depths, inner surfaces, outer surfaces, front edges, guides, tracks, grooves, extendable rings, extendable first rings, extendable second rings, open ends, mounting structures, and screw apertures may be disclosed, such components may comprise any shape, size, style, type, model, version, class, grade, measurement, concentration, material, weight, quantity, and/or the like consistent with the intended operation of extendable electrical box and a method and/or system implementation for an extendable electrical box may be used.

In places where the description above refers to particular implementations of an extendable electrical box, it should be readily apparent that a number of modifications may be made without departing from the spirit thereof and that these implementations may be applied to other extendable electrical boxes. The accompanying claims are intended to cover such modifications as would fall within the true spirit and scope of the disclosure set forth in this document. The presently disclosed implementations are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the

disclosure being indicated by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description. All changes that come within the meaning of and range of equivalency of the claims are intended to be embraced therein.

The invention claimed is:

1. An extendable electrical box comprising:

an electrical box comprising four side walls, two open ends to an internal box space having a first depth, a mounting structure attached to at least one side wall of the four side walls of the electrical box, the mounting structure configured to mount the electrical box to a vertical wall structure such that the open end faces are oriented substantially perpendicular to the vertical wall structure, and tracks defining a recess on an outer surface of at least two opposing corners of said electrical box, the tracks each having a longitudinal dimension and extending between the open ends perpendicular to the two open ends and extending from the respective open end inwardly toward the internal box space, a slot formed in two opposing side walls of said electrical box and extending from each open end; and

two extendable first rings slidably mounted on the outer surface of said electrical box, each comprising inwardly angled guides received in a respective track of the electrical box, the extendable first rings each continuously surrounding one of the two open ends of the electrical box and slidably coupled with the electrical box via the sliding mechanical cooperation of the one or more inwardly angled guides with the one or more tracks such that sliding either of the at least two extendable first rings in relation to the open ends of the electrical box expands the electrical box from the first depth to a larger second depth, each extendable first rings including a guide on an inner surface of two opposing walls of said extendable first rings, each said guide having a screw hole for receiving a mounting screw and supporting an electrical device, each said guide extending through a respective slot in the electrical box and slidably received in the respective slot.

2. The extendable electrical box of claim 1, wherein the at least two extendable rings each comprise a first ring and a second ring, wherein each second ring extends in relation to and beyond a corresponding first ring.

3. The extendable electrical box of claim 1, wherein each of the tracks comprises a channel extending inwardly toward the internal box space.

4. The extendable electrical box of claim 3, wherein each channel comprises a three-corned channel.

5. The extendable electrical box of claim 1, wherein said extendable rings comprise

a second ring slidably coupled to said first ring and being slidably adjustable outwardly from said respective open end face of said electrical box to expand the depth of said electrical box, and

said mounting structure integrally formed on the outer surface of the electrical box between said extendable first rings.

6. The extendable electrical box of claim 1, wherein said tracks are provided on an inner surface of said electrical box and extend between said first open end and second open end, and said guides are formed on an outer surface of said two extendable rings.

7. An extendable electrical box comprising:

an electrical box having a continuous front edge surrounding a first open end and a continuous rear edge surrounding a second open end opposite said first open end to an

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internal box space having a first depth, the electrical box comprising at least four side walls, and a mounting structure attached to at least one side wall of the electrical box, the mounting structure configured to mount the electrical box to a vertical wall structure such that the open ends are oriented substantially perpendicular to the vertical wall structure, and one or more recesses forming first tracks on an outer surface of at least one of the four side walls, each of the one or more first tracks having a longitudinal dimension extending from the respective open end and projecting inwardly toward the internal box space;

one or more extendable first rings having an axial passage and comprising one or more inwardly angled guides extending into said axial passage and adapted to mate with the one or more first tracks, the one or more first rings continuously surrounding a respective open end of the electrical box and slidably coupled with the electrical box via a sliding mechanical cooperation of the one or more inwardly angled guides with the one or more first tracks such that sliding the one or more extendable first rings in relation to an open end of the electrical box expands the electrical box from the first depth to a larger second depth, each said inwardly angled guides forming a longitudinally extending second track on an outer surface of said first ring;

one or more extendable second rings having an axial passage and comprising one or more integral inwardly angled guides extending into the axial passage and adapted to mate with a respective second track on the one or more extendable first rings, the one or more extendable second rings continuously surrounding the one or more extendable first rings and slidably coupled with the one or more extendable first rings; and

wherein when the one or more extendable first rings are in a collapsed position with respect to the electrical box, a front edge of the one or more first extendable rings is substantially flush with the continuous front edge of the electrical box.

8. The extendable electrical box of claim 7, wherein the one or more first tracks are located on an inner surface of the electrical box and the one or more guides are located on an outer surface of the one or more extendable first rings.

9. The extendable electrical box of claim 7, further comprising one or more reentrant opening auxiliary on at least one side wall of the electrical box, said reentrant opening extending from the open end of said electrical box in a longitudinal direction, and one or more auxiliary guides on an inner surface of said first ring adapted to fit within a respective auxiliary track and extend into said internal box space of said electrical box, each of said auxiliary guides having an aperture for mounting an electrical device.

10. The extendable electrical box of claim 7, wherein each of the one or more first tracks extends inwardly from a different corner of the electrical box toward the internal box space.

11. The extendable electrical box of claim 7, wherein each of the one or more first tracks comprises a channel extending inwardly toward the internal box space.

12. The extendable electrical box of claim 11, wherein each channel comprises a three-cornered channel.

13. The extendable electrical box of claim 12, wherein said first ring has an inwardly extending portion defining said guide on an inner surface and a recessed portion defining a longitudinally extending recessed track on an outer surface, and

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said second ring has an inwardly extending portion defining a longitudinally extending guide on an inner surface mating with said recessed track on said first ring.

14. An extendable electrical box comprising:

an electrical box having a first and second open end, and a first and second opposing side wall, a top wall, and a bottom wall, said top wall and said bottom wall each having a slot extending from said first open end toward said second open end, said electrical box having a mounting structure coupled to at least one of said side walls, top wall and bottom wall and configured for mounting to a support; and

a first extendable ring slidably mounted on an outer surface of said electrical box for sliding movement between a retracted position and an extended position with respect to said first open end, said extendable ring having two opposing side walls, a top wall and a bottom wall, an open front edge and an open rear edge, each said top wall and bottom wall having a guide on an inner surface and extending from the open front edge of said extendable ring and extending through a respective slot in said electrical box and into a cavity of said electrical box, each of said guides having an end face with a mounting screw aperture for receiving a mounting screw for mounting an electrical device, each said end face positioned at the front edge of said first extendable ring for spacing the electrical device from the open end of said electrical box, wherein said first extendable ring surrounds said electrical box and is slidable between said retracted position where said front edge of said first extendable ring is aligned with said first open end of said electrical box and said extended position where said front edge of said first extendable ring and said end face of said guides are spaced outwardly from said first open end.

15. The electrical box of claim 14, wherein

said electrical box has two spaced apart slots on said top and bottom walls and extending from said second open end toward said first open end, and

a second extendable ring slidably mounted on an outer surface of said electrical box for sliding movement between a retracted position and an extended position with respect to said second open end, said extendable ring having two opposing side walls, a top wall and a bottom wall, each said top wall and bottom wall having two spaced apart guides on an inner surface and extending from an open front edge of said second extendable ring and extending through a respective slot in said electrical box and into a cavity of said electrical box, each said guides having an end face with a mounting screw aperture for receiving a mounting screw for mounting an electrical device, each said end face positioned at the front edge.

16. The electrical box of claim 15, wherein said guides extend from said first open end to said second open end of said first and second extendable rings.

17. The electrical box of claim 14, wherein said electrical box has a first recess between said first side wall and said top wall defining a first track on an outer surface of said electrical box, a second recess between said second side wall and said bottom wall defining a second track on an outer surface of said electrical box, and

said first extendable ring has a first projection between said first side wall and top wall and extending into said axial passage for mating with said first track, and a second

projection between a second side wall and bottom wall and extending into said axial passage for mating with said second track.

18. An extendable electrical box comprising:
 an electrical box having an open end, a second end opposite 5
 said open end, and a first and second opposing side wall,
 a top wall, and a bottom wall, said top wall and said
 bottom wall having slots extending from said open end
 toward said second end; and
 an extendable ring slidably mounted on and surrounding an 10
 outer surface of said electrical box for sliding movement
 between a retracted position and an extended position
 with respect to said open end, said extendable ring hav-
 ing a first end, a second end, two opposing side walls, a
 top wall and a bottom wall, each said top wall and 15
 bottom wall having a guide on an inner surface and
 extending from an open front edge of said extendable
 ring and extending through a respective slot in said elec-
 trical box and into a cavity of said electrical box, each of
 said guides having an end face with a mounting screw 20
 aperture for receiving a mounting screw for mounting an
 electrical device, each said end face positioned at the
 front edge, said end face of said guides and said open
 front edge of said extendable ring being aligned with 25
 said open end of said electrical box in said retracted
 position and said end face of said guides and said open
 front edge of said extendable ring being spaced out-
 wardly from said open end of said electrical box in said
 extended position.

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